BENGALURU, SATURDAY, AUGUST 19, 2023 www.Bangaloremirror.com 16 Pages PRICE ₹4

Bangalore Mirror ON SATURDAY

TEMP Max 30 | Min 20 | Humidity 81% Generally cloudy sky with Light rain Sensex 64,948 | Nifty 19,310 | Gold 59,020 | Silver 68,000 | Dollar 83.10 | Euro 90.36 | GBP 105.74

PAGE 4

COME TOGETHER

No one will be left out as campaign to make friends with 'the other' picks up in city

PAGE 6

INCHING ALONG

K-RIDE issues tender for work at 4 corridors of suburban rail project; activists say, hurry!

Vandalised and run-down — scene at many bus shelters in city indicates it is time to do an audit and get down to maintaining these facilities. Meanwhile, were you thinking of sitting down?

THIS SEAT IS TAKEN

Activists say bus stops must not be under purview of BBMP but with transport authority

Melvin Mathew
c-melvin.mathew@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

KAUSHIK JN

The poor condition of bus shelters across the city is alarming. Civic activists say that there is a need for regular audits and maintenance of bus shelters. The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), on its part, claims it hasn't received many complaints about the condition of bus shelters, apart from illumination or lighting issues.

But, a glance at the bus shelters is enough to understand they severely lack maintenance. Several are worn-down and under-illuminated while others have been vandalised by miscreants. But the crux of the problem lies with the ownership resting with BBMP. Activists say that it should be vested with Bengaluru Metropolitan Land Transport Authority (BMLTA) that is the entity responsible for coordinating transport in the city.

A case in point of the pathetic condition is the bus shelter in Koramangala next to the infamous Ejipura Flyover. The shelter has a signboard to indicate the arrival and departure timings of buses and their routes. A QR code has been attached to connect to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »

This is the state of benches at a bus stop in the city. Better to stand while you await your bus to arrive

"We have been receiving some complaints about the illumination of these bus shelters. We issued a letter to all agencies concerned to submit a report 10 days ago. We are not getting many complaints about hygiene

—BBMP official

Ill-treated & dumped

Water released from STP that became operational just a year ago into Battarahalli Lake is completely polluted

Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Battarahalli Lake is back in the news again. The lake was in the news last year for fish kill. Now, again it is grim news: It has come to light that the quality of water released into the lake by the sewage treatment plant (STP) that barely became operational not more than a year ago is dismal.

The analysis report by Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB), prepared on July 24, found excessive quantities of chemical oxygen demand, total nitrogen, and fecal coliform in the water. The report stated that the quantity of chemical oxygen demand (COD) is 59 as against the standard quantity of 50 and the total nitrogen at 12 as against the standard quantity of 10. The amount of fecal coliform was 7,000 as against the quantity of less than 100.

The high COD indicates that water contains higher levels of oxidisable material in the lake water

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 »

3 THINGS TO DO

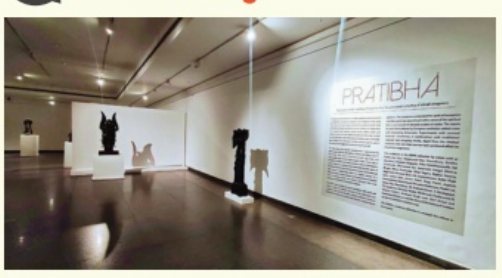
01 Get the best

Don't miss the chance to attend the 'Indian Haat Festival', an exhibition-cum-sale of handicraft items. You can explore cost-effective products such as colourful and good quality artifacts, sarees, household items, ornamental items, intricately carved handicrafts, designer clothes, and more. **Where: Chitrakala Parishath**
When: until August 27

02 Talent hour

The latest edition of Young Artiste Festival 2023 is here. The event features young talents aged 6-21 years from various Indian states including Jammu & Kashmir, Sikkim, West Bengal, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, and Karnataka, showcasing their prowess in their art in instrumental, vocal and dance genres.
Where: Bangalore International Center, Domlur; live-streaming on @IndianVocals-SIFFYoungArtiste on YouTube
When: August 20; from 5 pm onwards

03 Art history



National Gallery of Modern Art, Bengaluru (NGMA B) presents in-house curated sculpture exhibition Pratibha from the permanent collection of NGMA Bengaluru going on at the new wing gallery. The exhibition showcases 39 sculptures and mixed media artworks of well-known artists who have contributed to the history of modern art in India.
Where: #49, Manekyavelu Mansion, Palace Road
When: until August 20; Tuesday to Friday 11 am to 06 pm; Saturday and Sunday 11 am to 07:30 pm; Monday gallery remains closed

Drizzle won't douse sizzle

Bengaluru experiences unusual temperature patterns; deficit in rainfall leads to fluctuation in average daytime temperatures, says expert

Sridhar Vivan
sridhar.vivan
@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @sridharvMirror

Several areas in south-southwest and south-east Bengaluru experienced one to two episodes of light rain; the daytime temperature is projected to remain near normal for next 48 hours

The city of Bengaluru experienced a brief cooldown on Friday evening, thanks to sporadic showers that brought a momentary relief from the summer heat. Despite the refreshing rain, the city's temperature remained slightly higher than the norm, with a recorded high of 29.5 degrees Celsius, which was still one degree above the average.

Commenting on the weather conditions, A Prasad, scientist at the India Meteorological Department, shared insights into the unusual temperature patterns. "The maximum temperature has exceeded the normal by two to three degrees this month. Ideally, the average daytime temperature for August should be around 28.1 degrees Celsius.

However, the current temperature has been fluctuating between 30 and 31 degrees Celsius. This deviation is largely attributed to a deficit in rainfall, resembling a late monsoon scenario," explained Prasad.

Comparing historical data, it is evident that previous Augusts have witnessed slightly lower temperatures. In 2022, the maximum recorded temperature was 30.5 degrees Celsius, while 2021 saw a high of 30.7 degrees Celsius. The record peak was documented in August 2012, reaching 32.4 degrees Celsius. Despite the present warmth, experts anticipate a decrease in temperatures in the coming days.

Elaborating on the rainfall patterns, Prasad acknowledged the reduction in rainfall during August due to the influence of the El Niño effect.

However, he expressed optimism about the Indian Ocean Dipole Oscillation, which currently appears favourable and could bring about regular rainfall. "We may anticipate substantial rainfall for a period of three to four days," he noted.

Meanwhile, Namma Karnataka Weather's Twitter update stated, "As anticipated, daytime temperatures in Bengaluru have receded. The maximum temperature reached 29.5°C, a mere 1°C above the normal range. Several areas in south-southwest and south-east Bengaluru experienced one to two episodes of light rain. The daytime temperature is projected to remain near normal for the next 48 hours due to the surge in westerly winds."

> **"The maximum temperature has exceeded the normal by two to three degree this month. Ideally, the temperature should be 28.1°C** – A Prasad

The India Meteorological Department's Friday bulletin reflected on the weather conditions, stating, "The southwest monsoon demonstrated weakness over the state. Rainfall was observed in various areas across coastal Karnataka, as well as isolated places in interior Karnataka." Notable rainfall measurements included 5mm in Channapatna (Ramanagara district), 2mm in Mundgod, Shirali, Kadra (Uttara Kannada district), and various other locations across different districts.

Over the next 48 hours, the forecast predicts isolated thunderstorms accompanied by lightning in various parts of the state, with the possibility of gusty winds reaching speeds of 30–40 kmph in certain areas.

Stack 'em up: It's a book bonanza

Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Garuda Freedom Book Fest launched by Mandya MP Sumalatha

The need of the hour is to inculcate reading habits among children, and books are like a treasure trove of knowledge. Children would lose a golden opportunity if they failed to read more and more books, said Mandya MP Sumalatha Ambareesh.

Speaking after inaugurating the Garuda Freedom Book Fest in the city on Friday, Sumalatha said that she has been a bibliophile since childhood.

"I used to read many books since childhood. Historical fiction books are my favourites. Now, I can read not only English but also Hindi, Telugu, and Kannada, as I had the opportunity to have my education in Mumbai, Hyderabad, and Chennai," she said.

Further, she said that reading books gives her immense pleasure. "Now there is a facility for children to read books online. Children can select print or digital forms, but they have to read books," she explained.

The event had a grand opening on August 15, with mall visitors enjoying a variety of literature, novels, and encyclopaedia collections. The organisers of the book festival offer 25 books for Rs 1,947. There is a facility for buyers to get one book free if they purchase two books. The book festival has a collection of more than 10,000 books. The book festival will be open to visitors until August 24. Visitors can find new and pre-loved books from well-known and upcoming authors. From classics to new subjects, books on all topics are displayed.

> **"Children can select print or digital forms, but they have to read books**
> – MP Sumalatha Ambareesh

Want to feed strays? Sit for interview, take permission

Housing society's super-strict rules pertaining to dogs stump residents and even BBMP

Bangalore Mirror Bureau
mybangaloremirror
@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

Residents from a housing society in Whitefield have raised complaints about troublesome rules put in place by the resident welfare association regarding feeding community dogs. According to a few residents of the apartment complex, the society has issued a blanket notice in the form of a standing operating procedure (SOP) to all residents that does not allow feeders to feed community dogs unless special permission is sought from the association.

According to the SOP by Prestige Lakeside Habitat Home Owners Association (PLHHOA), a copy of which is with BM, a person who wishes to act as designated feeder shall obtain the necessary permission from PLHHOA, which is done through an interview process. After the procedure, the designated feeder is allotted a number that is tagged with the designated stray dog.

The SOP further states that the stray dog shall be trained to be in the designated feeding spot area and is strictly not allowed to freely roam around in the residential parcels, common area or enter the building premises or basement.

Failure to adhere to these rules shall result in imposing a penalty as appropriate and as decided by PLHHOA to the designated feeder attached to that stray.

YOU TALKING TO ME? SOP states dogs are strictly not allowed to roam around in residential parcels, common area or enter the building

"After we received complaints from the feeders, we organised a couple of meetings with the RWA and informed them that they cannot form SOPs for street dogs. As per Animal Birth Control (ABC) Rule, 2023, a committee is being formed to resolve the issue of the number of feeding spots inside the society. We have communicated to PLHHOA that their SOP and by-law will be in abeyance till the feeding spots are finalised by the committee. RWAs cannot have their laws and have to follow ABC Rule, 2023," said an official from BBMP's Animal Husbandry department.

Feeders allege that the SOP by-Law by PLHHOA violates ABC Rule 2023 and the association has been preventing feeders from performing their duty. They claim the association has also imposed penalties on residents too. Feeders also cite guidelines by the Animal Welfare Board of India stating that feeding stray animals is a social service and harassment and threatening of those who feed and care for them is a violation of the law.

> **We have neither penalised anyone for feeding stray dogs nor have directed security to disturb the animals. We have already made changes in our SOPs**
>
> –Association member

"PLHHOA is forcing feeders to tag themselves to a dog, so the feeder can be held responsible for any human-dog conflict. They have also extorted a fine of Rs 1,000+GST for feeders not complying with registration and not providing updates regular about the dogs. Some feeders have been asked to pay Rs 5,000+GST for feeding dogs in their private parking spaces as there has not been a consensus on feeding spots. The SOP also implies that feeders will be held accountable for dogs' behavior at all times," said a resident of Prestige Lakeside Habitat.

When BM reached out to a member of PLHHOA, they denied all the allegations.

"We have neither penalised anyone for feeding stray dogs nor have directed security to disturb the animals. We have already made changes in our SOP based on recommendations by BBMP officials," said the member.

3D printed post office is ready

India's first 3D printed post office was inaugurated by Railways and Communications minister Ashwini Vaishnaw in the city on Friday. The construction of the building started on March 20, and it was completed in 45 days, on May 10. A special cover was released by the minister. A 3D printed replica of the post office was also unveiled. The total area of the post office located in Cambridge Layout is 7,350 sq ft.

Initially, a designated area was excavated and it was filled up with sand. Public relations inspector of post office Satish told BM, "Unlike normal conventional methods, we wanted to make special types of curves. The 3D design is done by a printer. The planning was done, and the ground was dug up to 4-5ft. At the time of construction itself, the planning was done as to where to place the electric pipes as usually it's concealed. The ceiling was made at another place and placed upon the building. The size of the ceiling is a bit larger than the building." He added that it cost 30-40% less than the conventional building structure. **–BMB**

Right helmet the key to biking

With many bikers hitting the road to enjoy the monsoon, experts suggest that proper gear, especially the right type of helmets, are a must.

Satish S, an experienced mechanic and biker, advised, "First and foremost, bikers should always wear proper helmets. I consistently stress that even if it costs a bit more, never compromise on the helmet's quality. After all, no helmet's price exceeds that of your head. True protection comes from wearing a proper, full-face helmet. Furthermore, avoid speeding, and bikers should strictly adhere to speed limits set by the police, regardless of whether the bike is high-end or not. Pillion riders should also wear helmets. Even if you are leaving the city and won't encounter cameras or police, follow the rules diligently."

Meanwhile, with the monsoon having taken a pause, more Bengalureans are out on the roads. Many passionate bikers are venturing to nearby forests. Shobit Mazumdar, a biker based in the city, shared, "Karnataka is endowed with dense woods and well-maintained roads. It's like a red carpet for bikers.

BIKERS' BUZZ
BM'S PLATFORM TO MAKE THE GOOD RIDES ROLL

Recently, we embarked on a bike ride to Charmadi Ghat. Ordinarily, the area experiences heavy rainfall, but with the current break, it was an opportune time to go. One of the highlights of these rides is the chance to witness numerous waterfalls that come to life only during the rainy season. Particularly at Charmadi Ghat, there are several mini waterfalls that make the ride truly delightful. As responsible bikers, we always wear helmets, obey traffic rules, and avoid speeding. This allows us to appreciate nature while ensuring our safety."

For many Bengalureans, the Hogenakkal bike ride is also gaining popularity. "There are multiple routes to Hogenakkal. One scenic route is via Denkanikottai, Anchetty, Natramapalli, Biligundlu, and Hogenakkal. After passing Denkanikottai, we enter forests, and from there, we journey on winding roads with occasional villages. The road has its own allure. Normally dry in summer, a couple of good spells of rainfall bring the road to life with greenery. The area boasts of numerous hillocks, and navigating them is always a treat for bikers. Additionally, traffic is minimal. Beyond Biligundlu, some opt to take their bikes on coracles to cross the river, leading to a road to MM Hills and a return route in the opposite direction," explained Prateek Yadunandan, a biker.

Bikers say that toll booths in and around the city have become significant starting and ending points for their rides. "Many bikers join us for early morning rides. For most of us, the toll booths mark our rendezvous spot. These rides foster a strong sense of camaraderie," remarked Srinath Gowda, another biker.

–Prakash VL

RESPONSE CONNECT INITIATIVE

VEGA launches world's first color-changing helmet

Magic With UV Light

#Belagavi, Karnataka

VEGA Auto Accessories Pvt Ltd launched the very first helmet in the world with a graphic that responds to UV light. No helmet in history has changed its color when exposed to the sun. This innovative head gear is globally available (www.vegaauto.com)

Vega caters to providing the best fashion in the market keeping safety as a priority; the helmet is ISI & DOT Certified. Hence, VEGA the leading helmet manufacturer in India becomes the trendsetter in the helmet market.

The colors are elegant and bright at the same time. The helmet has an eye-catching chameleon graphic on it with white as the base color and when exposed to the sun white turns to Blue and Pink. It offers the user a cutting-edge helmet designed to provide the utmost protection without compromising on aesthetics. The shell is reinforced with multiple layers, including shock-absorbing materials, to distribute and dissipate impact forces across the surface, effectively reducing the risk of head injuries. The Vega Bolt Game Changer helmet incorporates strategically placed vents and channels to facilitate airflow, preventing overheating and

maintaining a cool and dry environment within. These vents are designed to maximize air circulation while minimizing wind noise, ensuring a pleasant riding experience. The inner parts of this helmet is lined with a combination of impact-absorbing foam and cushioning materials that contour to your head's shape for a secure and comfortable fit. The helmet's retention system utilizes an adjustable chin strap, allowing you to fine-tune the fit for optimal stability and security. The mechanism features a metallic quick-release micrometric buckle for easy use. The helmet is equipped with a visor that ensures optimal visibility and protects your eyes from debris, wind, and harmful UV rays.

This VEGA Bolt Game Changer helmet is one of a kind as it represents the perfect synergy of safety and style.

Breaking stereotypes: campaign fosters unity

Bengaluru volunteers launch campaign to empower marginalised communities

Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

A dedicated group of volunteers in Bengaluru has initiated a campaign aimed at uplifting marginalised sections of society. This effort is part of the nationwide movement known as #MereGharAaKeToDekho (Visit My Home, Be My Guest). The campaign takes its inspiration from Kuvempu's renowned poem, "Teredide Mane O Baa Athithi," which conveys the sentiment of open doors, open hearts, and a warm welcome to all.

The primary objective of the campaign is to challenge the divisive practice of "othering," which marginalises individuals based on prejudices linked to factors such as class, caste, religion, sexual orientation, language, ethnicity, region, and disability.

A recent gathering at a residence in RT Nagar saw approximately 70 participants from diverse walks of life come together. This assembly not only facilitated meaningful interactions but also provided a platform for individuals to acquaint themselves with each other.

Uma, who works for Jeeva, an NGO dedicated to supporting sexual minorities, highlighted the importance of such gatherings. She said, "Sexual minorities are often mistreated by society. Many individuals from sexual minorities (those who remain hidden) work in garment factories in the city, making them susceptible to sexual assaults at workplaces. Gatherings like these empower them by providing awareness about their rights and available amenities."

The primary objective of the campaign is to challenge the divisive practice of othering which marginalises individuals based on prejudices linked to factors like class, caste, sex, religion, language and more

The objective of the campaign is simple, people visit the home of someone from another 'community' or identity, spend a few hours with them, and share a cup of water, tea or a meal together. "This modest act, we believe, goes a long way in breaking existing socially constructed barriers. The effort is to spread the word of love and make this Independence Day more meaningful, by celebrating our diversity with a chance to foster mutual understanding and respect.

We hope to spread the campaign through word of mouth and social media," said Anita, a volunteer.

In addition to personal conversations within homes, the campaign will include public events on significant days such as festivals, commemorations, and remembrances. These occasions will cover events like Gauri Lankesh Day, Dabholkar Day, Savitri Bai Phule Birthday, Constitution Day, Gandhi Jayanthi, harvest festivals, and workers' days, anything meaningful to the participants. The campaign's culmination is set for January 30, 2023.

> **"This modest act, we believe, goes a long way in breaking existing socially constructed barriers. The effort is to spread love by celebrating our diversity** – Anita, Volunteer

Freelance journalist Rehmat Merchant said, "This campaign encourages us to open the doors of our homes, hearts, and minds to people we might not ordinarily engage with. Despite our diverse micro-cultures, we all share a common country. Let's embrace this opportunity to discover our similarities and focus less on our differences. By inviting others into our homes and accepting their invitations, we'll realise how much we truly have in common."

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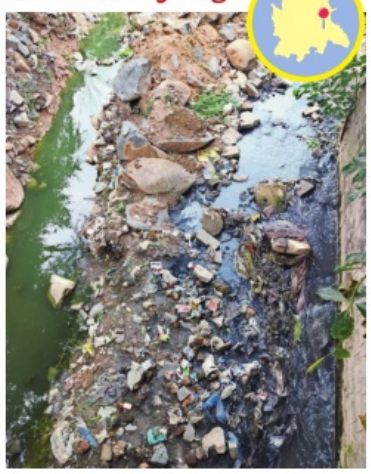
Safety alert

Double Road

A broken pavement near St. Joseph's College on Double Road poses a significant hazard, as the pathway is extensively utilised by the general public.

Dumped beauty

Ramamurthy Nagar



The Gangadhar Lake near ITI Colony in Ramamurthy Nagar is marred by a garbage dump.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the public that State Bank of India, SMECC Branch Mysuru, Branch Code:- 40694 is extending credit facility to M/s Vishwas Enterprises and the property mentioned in the schedule being offered as a Collateral to Bank. The title documents pertaining to the Schedule Property is laminated, in that regard, any person having any claims, mortgage, charge, trust or otherwise on the Schedule Property are requested to inform the same writing along with the proof to The Manager, State Bank of India, SMECC Branch, Mysuru, Branch Code:- 40694, within 15 days from the date of the notice.

SCHEDULE

All the piece and parcel of the House Property Bearing No. 285, RAMA IYENGAR ROAD, VV PURAM, SHANKARAPURA, BANGALORE-560004 measuring East to West- 54 feet, North to South 22 feet situated at Municipal No.29, Ward No.50, Rama Iyengar road, VV Puram, Bangalore Bounded on the :- East by: Conservancy Lane, West by: Rama Iyengar road, South by: House belonged to Sri. K V Acharya, North by: House No.27, Belonged to Shivarudrappa

Sd/- Manager, SBI

Fecal coliform is 7,000 as against standard of 100

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

that damage aquatic life forms. An increase in the total nitrogen level too has an adverse impact on aquatic life. Residents of the area and lake activists urge the KSPCB engineer to direct the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) and the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Lakes Department to take measures to ensure water in the lake is not polluted.

"I came across the STP releasing dirty water into the lake. I have already informed the BBMP Lakes Department about it. The BWSSB officials must ensure that the STP treats water properly before letting it into the lake," said Balaji Raghotham, a lake activist.

Raghavendra Pachhapur, senior project lead with ActionAid, said that he got the details for the last three months from the KSPCB on the quality of water in Battarahalli Lake.

"It seems that the STP is not functioning to the optimum levels. Coliform bacteria are high leading to high biochemical oxygen demand (BOD). Since water is collected by the KSPCB during the day, dissolved oxygen (DO) seems to be good. During the night this will reduce and can be a vital challenge for life under water. It will lead to shortage of oxygen under water and can lead to fishkill," said Pachhapur. Stating that the amount of coliform is more than 70 times the maximum limit and that means the danger of waterborne diseases is extremely high, Nagesh Aras, a member, Friends of Lakes, said that it is clear that the sewage is not fully treated and an STP is supposed to reduce coliforms in at least four stages.

"So this report shows that there is something seriously wrong with the STP design, operation and/or maintenance. The KSPCB does not have a formal process to deal with such cases at all. Logically, KSPCB should inform the STP operator (in this case, BWSSB) and then track this case till closure. However, in the absence of such a procedure, we cannot expect fast and effective corrective action. So this dangerous situation may continue for any length of time, without any control," warned Aras. He said that according to the Water Act 1974, the KSPCB is supposed to educate the public about wastewater treatment but the KSPCB website does not provide downloads for reference documents (standards, acts, rules, notifications, orders).

"So how would any STP operator/owner know what standards they are supposed to comply with? Most importantly, BWSSB is supposed to have an online monitoring system, which automatically cuts the output if the limits are not met. I have personally seen that in some BWSSB STPs, this system was dysfunctional, and was bypassed. This case indicates that a similar situation exists at the Battarahalli STP also," he said.

When informed, KSPCB environmental officer (Mahadevapura) Mahendra said that he would issue a notice to the BWSSB and the BBMP.

Game change for realty sector

CM's Independence Day address ignites boost for realty sector; realtors welcome this stance

The recent Independence Day speech by Siddaramaiah has injected new momentum into the realty sector. During his address, the Chief Minister said, "Our focus will extend to the development of suburban townships in Devanahalli, Nelamangala, Hoskote, Doddaballapur, and Magadi. These regions will be seamlessly connected through road and rail networks, facilitating daily travel to and from Bengaluru's outskirts for various purposes. The intention is to alleviate congestion within the city."

This proposition has been wholeheartedly embraced by realtors who anticipate that this emphasis on outlying areas will pave the way for the city's expansion.

Ramesh Reddy, a realtor, commented, "When we assess Bengaluru's growth trajectory, the neighbouring towns are rapidly integrating with the city fabric. Presently, Bengaluru's influence extends beyond Devanahalli, Nelamangala, Hosakote, Doddaballapur, and even up to Magadi. The government's proactive stance in augmenting the infrastructure of these regions will prove advantageous for those contemplating home construction there. Undoubtedly, this is a commendable initiative."

Siddaramaiah, in fact, has pledged more comprehensive development measures for various regions. He revealed plans for new housing layouts in Hassan, Chamarajanagar, Chikkamagaluru, Ballari, Kalaburagi, Mangaluru, and Belagavi, designed to provide affordable sites, with urban development authorities overseeing the layouts' creation. Realtors assert that, especially in the post-covid era, many continue to work remotely from their hometowns, and the growth of tier 2 cities will significantly catalyse the realty sector's overall progress in Karnataka.

Dinesh K, a prominent realtor, shared his perspective, stating, "The quality of roads significantly influences the developmental prospects of the areas they traverse. This speech appears to have injected substantial impetus into realty growth."

-Prakash VL

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Fitting the bills

How are crime, data privacy, forests, and the sea interlinked? Absurd you may say. But they are linked in the world's most populous nation for reasons that may not be in the best interests of poor, disenfranchised, marginalised, those on the fringes and those fence-sitting, indecisive souls entangled in the never ending political drama that may leave us all on the wayside before it all may come crashing down. Do you get the drift?

The case is of the bills passed in haste in the Parliament - 22 in the Lok Sabha and 25 in the Rajya Sabha - without adequate discussion or debate amongst the people's representatives in the houses, lack of critical public consultations notwithstanding. The absence of transparency in critical planes of lawmaking that may affect individual citizens of this vast nation in the near future is somewhat disconcerting - the clandestine, hurried, scramble that is employed to pass crucial legislation after legislation. Every time such a thing transpires you wonder why such a smoke and mirrors approach is warranted for an absolute-majority dispensation.

Transparency must be a priority as there are no coalition partners that you must deliberate with. You must lay bare your intentions on the table as you have the absolute mandate to push through legislation within the constitutional framework. In such a scenario, the average citizen is left with a feeling of suspicion.

Data today is personal information commodified and put up for sale in vast quantities. If this data is exclusive the more value it commands. So control over this data is critical and everyone is vying for it, especially governments. The personal data privacy bill pushed through in the monsoon session, according to experts, ensures the proliferation of personal data in all spheres that the government operates. This means that the bill rather ensures the powers that be have easy access to personal data than the mechanism to protect and safeguard it against the misuse. Many of the safeguards and mandated protections against the misuse of personal data were overlooked in the long periods of time that lapsed in debate and discussion around the same. This left a lot of space open for big tech and telecom players to proliferate and gain access to vaults of information in the public domain. Essentially what the bill will do is to codify it for better use by these entities.

Since the inception of the current dispensation, commercial entities have been gnawing at forests just as years of conservation have been pushing wildlife out as space shrinks. Precisely at this opportune time we have a forest act amendment after 40 or so years to make the encroachment a tad easier for commercial entities. Proper consultation with all the stakeholders involved is the primary step that should have been adopted when amending a law that has been in place for almost four decades and has indeed helped in sustaining the forests, wildlife and communities that have lived for aeons in these spaces. But the intent and motive behind the amendment point to a direction that is not so rosy.

Perhaps a bit more unexplored is the space around the peninsula - the two seas and the ocean. A bill is here to explore the eco-sensitive zones for the purpose of development that we cannot do away with.

Perhaps the first and foremost priority should have been the rehabilitation of communities whose livelihoods are being shaken by the fallout of the climate emergency. But the intent is to handover this space and evict communities if need be.

And of course there is the proposed Indianisation of the law and order mechanism proposed through a set of laws by the home minister in the parliament. Death penalty for lynching and rape of minors alongside doing away with the controversial colonial relic of a law that is the sedition section figure in the proposed amendments. The acknowledgement that there is indeed a need to relook at the law and order mechanism envisaged for the 'natives' is indeed a welcome move. But when a large set of legislations is pushed through without mandated debate and discussion, the intent always comes under the shadow of doubt. So is the case here too.

Another welcome change that came alongside these vast amount of laws to come into effect sooner was the Supreme Court rethinking the parlance when it comes to gender stereotypes and indeed releasing a handbook for the members of the judiciary and the larger public to herald a much needed change in how we look at gender identities that are now far more fluid than it were before.

In effect we see the country being pulled in all directions coming under immense pressure from the outside and within even as the political and social dynamic constantly evolves just as the climate crisis wreaks havoc in the mountains up north.

Inch by inch, suburban rail work dragging on

K-RIDE floats tenders for various works for 4 corridors; activists stress on need to accelerate the project

Melvin Mathew
c-melvin.mathew@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Civic activists say this should be treated as high-priority project

Despite long delays in the project, Bangalore Suburban Rail Project (BSRP) has inched at least one step closer to completion with K-RIDE floating a tender for setting up a receiving substation for the four corridors.

Recently, the Rail Infrastructure Development Company (Karnataka) Limited KRIDE floated the tender for works such as consultancy to engage a competent and experienced Design Consultant for Detailed Design Consultancy of Receiving Sub Stations cum 25 kV AC Traction Substations and Auxiliary Main Substations, Extra High Voltage & High Voltage Cabling, Auxiliary Network and Substations, 25 KV Flexible Overhead Equipment and SCADA System, Operation Control Centre for Complete Corridor and Proof check of Design of 25kV Rigid OHE and Associated Works and supply & training for design software, design calculations, preparation of drawings, BOQ and Technical documents of bids for Corridor-1,2,3 & 4 of BSRP project including depots at Soldevanahalli and Devanahalli.

To meet the traffic demand, 3.2 m wide and 21.7 m length AC rolling stock is recommended for running suburban rail services in Bengaluru. The design speed is 90 mph and the operational speed shall be 80 mph (except at stations). The operating speed at stations shall be 50 mph. The operating speed in depots shall be 25 mph. The train power supply shall be fed by 25KV- AC Overhead Equipment System. As of now, for Corridor 2, a 220KV receiving substation has been proposed in Mathikere.

However, activists rue the delay in the project and three separate deadlines for the project. "Day before yesterday, we wrote a letter to MB Patil highlighting that there are already two deadlines down and now we have a third deadline. This could encourage further delay in the project," said Rajkumar Dugar of Citizens for Citizens (C4C).

"This is a high priority project affecting countless people and should be put on fast-track mode. We have specifically requested that all tender work awarding should be completed within this year. The airport corridor should have been ready by October," he added.

In an RTI filed by the activist, it was also found that BMRCL suggested the deprioritisation of the Airport corridor that is Corridor 1(KSR Bengaluru-Yelahanka-Devanahalli/Airport.

ROB, RUB bonanza

K-RIDE is planning to do away with 26 railway level crossings (LCs) by constructing Rail Over Bridges (ROBs) and Road Under Bridges (RUBs). The move hopes to ease traffic congestion across various level crossings in the city.
K-RIDE will undertake the project as a portion of the proposed 149-km Bengaluru suburban rail project. It has identified identified six LCs on Yeshwantpur-Yelahanka section, seven on the Byappanahalli-Chikkabanavara section, two on the Kengeri-KSR Bengaluru City section, six on the Heelalige-Byappanahalli section, one on the Byappanahalli-Yelahanka section, and four on the Yelahanka-Rajanukunte section for removal. BMB

Shelters thrown under the bus

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the now-defunct MyBMTC app. Such a utilitarian facility could prove helpful to people, but it has been vandalised by unknown miscreants who have scribbled all over it. Activists say it is a common sight across Bengaluru.

"Some bus shelters are physically damaged; with the benches ripped apart. I have observed that half the seating is damaged at some bus shelters due to poor quality or regular wear and tear. The multipurpose solution is to install cameras and suitable lighting. Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) should consider a pilot of model bus shelters with suitable lighting and cameras. Cameras can keep a check on illegally parked vehicles in bus bays too. We need focused street lights for the bus shelter portion alone," said Rajkumar Dugar, a civic activist.

Vinod Jacob of Namma Bengaluru Foundation said that the BMTC should privatise bus shelters so that it can earn revenue. "But the ownership of these bus shelters lies with BBMP. There should be routine audits of these bus shelters and the authorities should maintain cameras on the premises. A sign board stating 'You are under CCTV surveillance' could deter vandalism by miscreants. This would help catch the miscreants and stop further vandalism. With the traffic officials starting rule enforcement with AI cameras, maybe the technology can also help conduct an audit on ridership levels," he said.

City-based activist Sandeep Anirudhan said that the main issue was that ownership of bus shelters lies with BBMP and not BMTC. "The state government should work towards handing over all transport infrastructure to BMLTA like roads, shelters, and transit management centres (TMCs) and interconnect the infrastructure. This will also allow for infrastructure to be designed in a way to serve an interconnected purpose," Anirudhan said.

BBMP's traffic engineering cell (TEC) department oversees construction of bus shelters. When BM reached out to TEC officials, we were told that they don't receive any complaints about bus shelters except for illumination issues. "Bus shelters are built in the public, private partnership model. We have been receiving some complaints about the illumination of these bus shelters. We issued a letter to all agencies concerned to submit a report 10 days ago. We are not getting many complaints about hygiene as such," a senior BBMP official told BM.

In March 2023, BBMP had floated a tender for the renovation of 60 bus shelters in a bid to turn them into model shelters.

Realty council chief stresses on infra boost for B'luru

Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The National Real Estate Development Council (NAREDCO), Karnataka wants the state government to establish a construction material manufacturing park and a comprehensive vision plan exclusively for Bengaluru and the state.

NAREDCO Karnataka president Sathish Kumar M told Bangalore Mirror on Friday, that the government has to consider all sectors like the industries, transportation, housing, agriculture, major infrastructures, major attractions, etc. and along with growth load on a five-year scale for the next 100 years.

"The government has developed the infrastructure in Bengaluru based on the current needs but the need of the hour is to make provisions for all the future infrastructures and start developing on the estimated loads for the next 10 decades," said Sathish Kumar.

Sathish Babu (inset) stressed on fixing civic infrastructure issues of city

NAREDCO Karnataka is hosting the "Vision Karnataka 2050" conference on Sunday, featuring Karnataka Urban Development Minister Byrathi Suresh as the chief guest. Distinguished guests including Niranjan Hiranandani, Vice-Chairman of NAREDCO National, Ranjan Bhandelkar, President of NAREDCO National, Prem Kumar, Vice President of NAREDCO South, and Haribabu, President-elect of NAREDCO National, will also participate.

In an exclusive interview, Sathish Babu said managing the infrastructure is a nightmare."The Metropolotan city of Bengaluru has a lot of deficit in infrastructure and coupled with management issues mainly due to the present inadequate infrastructure such as traffic, power, water, sewer, stormwater drains, public transport, housing, noise, air pollution, and waste management," he said.

He said the lack of infrastructure in tier 2 and tier 3 cities would lead to a lack of interest for industrialists and it will overburden Bengaluru's industries. "It leads to migration of people to Bengaluru which in turn leads to overloading of the existing infrastructures in the city," Kumar said.

He opined that the establishment of a construction material manufacturing park would be an alternative to Chinese products in construction. "The establishment of the construction material manufacturing park can sustain huge demand for construction material till the next century. It will be the first in the country and will have the potential to create lakhs of jobs and a good source of economy in Karnataka," Kumar said.

Stating that many projects have become unviable due to the delay in sanctions and approvals, the delays in approvals and sanctions would escalate the cost of projects. "The authorities concerned take major time in giving approvals to the projects. Unclear policies and the discretionary nature of powers make it very inefficient for sanctions and approvals. Multiple departments working without proper coordination makes it unnecessarily time-consuming," he said.

He suggested project planning, approvals, sanctions, and completion of reports to be automated and outsourced to chartered engineers and architects. "Only deviations must be escalated to the authorities," he said.

Emphasising the need of empowering the Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA) as a neutral body rather than a consumer protection body, he said the government has to fine-tune RERA provisions and remove bottlenecks. "RERA awareness certification before awarding RERA licence to builders, promoters, and property consultants," he said.

Politicking: Will flyaway birds return to the nest?

Speculations rife that a few BJP legislators may be thinking of 'homecoming'

Sridhar.Vivan
@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @sridharvMIRROR

Are a few BJP legislators considering a 'Ghar Wapsi' (homecoming)? Speculations have gained momentum following a meeting between Yeshwanthpur MLA ST Somashekar and Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, during which Somashekar expressed appreciation for the latter. Despite Somashekar's denials about any plans to join the saffron party, he alleges that certain local party members are pressuring him to switch to Congress. Speaking to the media, Somashekar stated, "I share a strong rapport with party leaders at the state level. However, cooperation from several local leaders is lacking, as some even attempted to defeat me in the elections. I am seeking support from my party colleagues to determine my next steps." Yellapur MLA Shivaram Hebbar, who previously defected from the Congress to the BJP and became a minister, is also linked to such speculations. Hebbar mentioned that although he presently lacks such intentions, he intends to engage in discussions with his supporters soon. There were murmurs about Mahalakshmi Layout MLA Gopalaiah being approached by Congress leaders as well, but Gopalaiah refuted these claims, asserting that he has not been consulted by anyone.

In the meantime, Agriculture Minister Cheluvarayaswamy revealed that around 15 current and former legislators from BJP and JDS are in contact with Congress, considering a switch. Home Minister G Parameshwara affirmed that the party will welcome those who align with its principles. Sources indicate that Congress has set a goal to secure a minimum of 20 seats in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections.

"I am familiar with all 224 MLAs in Karnataka. Our connections may extend beyond politics into personal relationships
–DK Shivakumar

Responding to inquiries about the prospect of welcoming back departed leaders, Shivakumar asserted on Friday that permanence remains elusive in politics. However, he dismissed rumours of engaging in discussions with BJP leaders to facilitate their return to the party. Regarding reported outreach to 13 JD(S) MLAs, Shivakumar emphasised his lack of knowledge regarding such developments. "I am familiar with all 224 MLAs in Karnataka. Our connections may extend beyond politics into personal relationships," he noted. "While I remain informed about the actions and negotiations of the BJP, the media seems reticent on this front. Our government is functional, and we remain committed to fulfilling our obligations to the people," Shivakumar emphasised. "The previous government was rejected by the voters. BJP and JD(S) leaders appear agitated. We are monitoring their statements and the media's amplification of their positions. Their efforts seem geared toward asserting their presence," he added. "Our Congress party members are diligently working to augment the party's vote share. We have even approved the inclusion of local BJP leaders within our ranks," he confirmed.

"I share a strong rapport with party leaders at the state level. However cooperation from local leaders is lacking, as some even attempted to defeat me in elections –ST Somashekar

Inquiry against 40 per cent commission

The Karnataka government has launched a probe into a purported 40% commission involving BJP leaders. The Congress-led administration appointed a judicial inquiry to investigate alleged irregularities in state contracts during the previous BJP-led tenure under Basavaraj Bommai.

Guided by retired High Court Judge Nagmohan Das, a committee will investigate claims by D Kempanna, President of the Karnataka State Contractors Association. The Public Works Department's Deputy Secretary ordered a comprehensive investigation into the 40% commission issue during the BJP's rule.

The committee must meticulously review relevant locations and documents, submitting a detailed report within 30 days. Concerned officials must provide necessary files and personally participate in site inspections, cooperating fully.

This matter surfaced in April 2022 after contractor Santosh Patil's tragic suicide. His note implicated former state minister and BJP leader KS Eshwarappa, alleging a 40% commission demand for a government project. In 2021, Kempanna informed PM Narendra Modi of a similar practice. Congress capitalised on this in its anti-BJP campaign. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah assured the Contractors' Association of action against such commissions.

Needle in lungs: Doc pulls off miracle

A 14-year-old girl found herself in a life-threatening situation after she accidentally swallowed a 3 cm metallic needle that got stuck in her lungs. The situation was dire, as the needle remained invisible even under the probing of a small-diameter bronchoscope. Dr Vasunethra Kasargod, Consultant - Pulmonology, Manipal Hospitals Millers Road, embarked on a two-hour procedure to remove the needle. Using a bronchoscopic method, they skillfully navigated her airways, safely retrieving the needle from her lungs. To overcome this challenge, the medical team turned to fluoroscopy, a real-time imaging technique that allowed them to pinpoint the exact location of the body and successfully removed it with biopsy forceps. It was a near-death case that was handled successfully.

Dr. Vasunethra Kasargod

"We had to perform a two-hour procedure to remove the needle. Using a bronchoscopic method, we navigated her airways and successfully took out the needle from her lungs. The procedure was successful, even though the needle wasn't visible under a small-diameter bronchoscope. Fluoroscopy was used to locate the object, and it was then removed with biopsy forceps. The girl has fully recovered and has returned home," explained Dr Kasargod.

Maya's miraculous recovery serves as a reminder of the importance of vigilance and caution, particularly when it comes to small and dangerous objects. The incident underscores the remarkable achievements of modern medicine and the dedication of healthcare professionals who tirelessly work to save lives.

mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com
facebook.com/bangaloremirror
@BangaloreMirror

BENGALURU SPEAKS

and gets heard on this page

STORYBEHINDTHEPHOTO

LUSCIOUS FRUIT
Common barons relishing a juicy mango after a squirrel tasted it

The picture was clicked by BM reader
Venkatalakshmi S

If you have a picture and a story to share, send us the picture with your name and number at **mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com**

DID YOU KNOW?

The Ragigudda Sree Prasanna Anjaneyaswamy Temple, also known as Ragigudda Temple in Jayanagar, is located on a hillock. This temple is spread across 5 acres and is dedicated to the Hindu god, Lord Hanuman. According to popular belief, the main deity of the temple was made from ragi, which is also a reason behind the name of the temple. It is said that the temple was established after a religious act by a woman named Sudharma. The temple has also been popular for its healthcare services and yoga classes for its visitors. Hanuman Jayanthi is celebrated with great pomp and show in the temple.

GET HEARD WITH MIRROR
9591233247
Let's see how much you know about Namma Bengaluru, folks. Tell us something incredible and mind-boggling about this beautiful city and our editors and researchers will check it out. If it's credible, we'll give it a shout-out, with your name and picture.

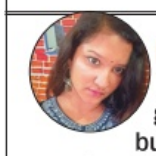
TAPTHECHATTER

where Bengalureans speak their mind

Which stretch of Bengaluru's roads do you dread the most to ride on and why?

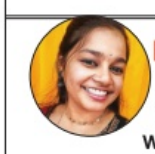
Zaira Noronha, BM Reader
The residents of Rukmini Nagar in Nagasandra are dismayed by the deplorable conditions of the road, especially after the recent heavy rains. The roads have been washed out, leaving pot-holes that pose risks to pedestrians.

Noyal Viju, BM Reader
The road that I dread the most is the stretch between 8th Mile and Nelagadaranahalli. Mainly due to its poor quality and the unfinished work persisting for the past few months. This road has transformed into a narrow path.



Pritisha Parekh, BM Reader
The roads in Bengaluru endure a great deal each year due to rain, but the use of substandard materials for road construction, ongoing incomplete projects, and traffic have resulted in severe problems for the public. One such example is Sapthagiri College junction road.

Puleene Sotto, BM Reader
I hesitate to travel on the road to Kempegowda International Airport in Bengaluru from any part of the city. The distance is considerable, particularly for individuals who have not yet resumed travelling.



Pavani B, BM Reader
The stretch from Goraguntepalya to Nagasandra is truly distressing, with buses and other heavy vehicles speeding despite the presence of signals and speed breakers.

Krishna Priya Aji, BM Reader
For me, it's the Outer Ring Road, as it is exceedingly congested and one of the most perilous thoroughfares. Additionally, the driving habits of individuals are a major concern.

SPEAK TO US
Which space in the city affords you a chance to completely be yourself and engage with your interests?
If you want to be featured in this section, mail us your answer to this question, in 25 words, with 'Tap The Chatter' in the subject line. Mail us with your name, occupation & a picture at mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com or WhatsApp us on 9591233247

When chaos reigns all over

Residents of Kaggadasapura raise concerns over illegal encroachment, littering, and dumping situations; seek help from BBMP

Sridhar Vivan
sridhar.vivan@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @sridharvMirror

The residents of 11B Cross Road, Kaggadasapura, have sought urgent action from the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), as the civic agency has turned a blind eye to their problems.

A resident said, "A number of construction workers and other labourers have established an unauthorised settlement in the vicinity. This has led to the misuse of public spaces, with reports of littering, open defecation, and urination.

Footpaths have been converted into laundry areas and makeshift dump yards, severely impacting the overall environment. Our street, which overlooks Doddanekundi Lake and its surrounding garden, has become a site of concern due to rampant open defecation and urination by the inhabitants of the unauthorised settlement."

They added that both entrances to the garden have been affected, making it difficult for visitors to access them. The unsanitary conditions have also attracted delivery personnel, exacerbating the issue. Many residents explained that they have observed a lack of regular sanitation services in their area, leading to the accumulation of garbage along the streets. This neglect has prompted passersby to contribute to the growing garbage problem. Residents call for the allocation and instruction of sanitary employees to maintain cleanliness in their locality.

Residents reported littering on 11B Cross Road, Kaggadasapura

The process of garbage collection has also become burdensome for the community. Another resident said, "The negligence of irresponsible builders, compounded by the ongoing issues, has resulted in an unlawful garbage dump in close proximity to the residents' homes. Despite warnings, indiscriminate garbage disposal continues, raising health concerns and contributing to illnesses among us.

Our area is grappling with a mosquito and flea infestation, leading to recurring cases of dengue. Both watchmen and children have fallen victim to these vector-borne diseases due to the unsanitary conditions."

They added that the locality has witnessed a surge in aggressive stray dogs. Concerns about safety have prompted residents to call for intervention to address the issue.

Moreover, the residents said that the reckless disposal of alcohol bottles further exacerbates the problem in the area.

> What makes something special is not just what you have to gain, but what you feel there is to lose.
>
> —Andre Agassi

Shivamogga Lions beat Gulbarga Mystics by 176 runs

In a thrilling final over, Shivamogga Lions clinched their third consecutive victory in the Maharaja Trophy KSCA T20, against Gulbarga Mystics. Despite a shaky start, Shivamogga chased an imposing target of 176 with three wickets and one ball remaining, showcasing remarkable resilience.

Opting to bat first, Gulbarga Mystics had a disastrous start with LR Chethan run out by Kranthi Kumar in the opening over. Despite the pressure imposed by Shivamogga's bowlers, Aadarsh Prajwal (43) led a recovery, helping them reach 35-2 at the end of the powerplay. The 10th over yielded 23 runs, with R Smaran (40) and Prajwal contributing.

Gulbarga managed to score 175/6 in 20 overs, with Srinivas Sharath (22* off 11) and D Avinash (19* off 9) forming an unbeaten partnership. In their innings, Shivamogga was initially at 43-5 after six overs due to strong performances by Gulbarga's bowlers.

Nonetheless, a partnership between skipper Shreyas Gopal and Abhinav Manohar (71 runs in 57 balls) steadied the Lions. Gopal's explosive 18-run 14th over and HS Sharath's match-winning innings (31* off 11) propelled Shivamogga to 179/7 in 19.5 overs.

S Shivraj (27* off 17 balls) came in and found boundaries immediately before Abhinav Manohar was dismissed by D Avinash to bring HS Sharath to the crease. The tall pacer from Mandya played match-winning innings of 31* runs from just 11 deliveries. **– ANI**

BENGLAURU'S NEW SPORTS DATE – POLO

Top teams gallop into exciting season at ARPA

Bengaluru witnessing the resurgence of interest in Polo with four tournaments to be hosted this season

Bangalore Mirror Bureau
mybangaloremirror
@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

Bengaluru is witnessing a resurgence of interest in the age-old sport of polo as several top teams from across the nation participate in the city's polo season, which has recently commenced. Brigadier TS Maan and Lieutenant Colonel Jaspal Singh Negi have indicated that the Agram Riding and Polo Academy (ARPA) will host four major tournaments during this season, featuring a total of nine competing teams.

According to sources within the Defense Ministry, polo's origins date back to pre-recorded history, with its roots deeply intertwined with the special bond between humans and horses. This unique connection and the harmonious synergy between horse and rider have elevated polo to its renowned status as the "Sport of Kings." The contemporary history of polo can be traced to Manipur.

"In 1859, the Silchar Polo Club was established by British military officers and tea planters. This initiation was prompted by the encounter of Lieutenant Joe Sherer with locals engaged in polo, which compelled him to exclaim, "We must learn the game!" The sport rapidly gained popularity, spanning across nations, reaching places like Malta in 1868, England in 1869, Ireland in 1870, Argentina in 1872, and Australia in 1874", said Negi.

The narrative takes an intriguing turn. Negi further adds, "During a visit to England, James Gordon Bennett, the publisher of the New York Herald, was introduced to polo. In 1876, upon returning to New York, he brought back polo equipment and a set of Hurlingham rules. The inaugural match took place at a city riding academy, later transitioning to an outdoor field in Westchester County. Subsequently, the sport gained momentum across North America, with polo galloping its way into sensation. Often acclaimed as the 'Sport of Kings', polo boasts a rich global history closely intertwined with India."

> **Bengaluru's moderate climate provides an ideal polo environment throughout the year, positioning it as a prime location to support and promote the sport**
>
> – Lt Col Jaspal Singh Negi

Interestingly, Bengaluru holds a significant connection with polo, as its favourable climate and growing corporate support position it to become a central hub for the sport. "The Bangalore Polo Season not only pays homage to its storied past but also envisions an exhilarating future for the sport. Originating in ancient Persia, polo found its way to India during the Mughal era. The Mughal emperors embraced polo avidly, and it swiftly gained favour among the royalty and elite. The contemporary roots of polo can be traced to Manipur, where the Silchar Polo Club emerged in 1859 under the leadership of British officers and tea planters. This triggered a rapid propagation of polo, reaching locations like Malta (1868), England (1869), Ireland (1870), Argentina (1872), and Australia (1874)," added Negi.

Bengaluru has a rich history of polo, with the Bangalore Turf Club introducing the sport to the region in 1920. "Matches held at the club's grounds, now recognised as the Agram Polo Ground of ASC Centre and College, attracted players and spectators, becoming an integral part of the city's fabric. Sources suggest that Bengaluru's moderate climate provides an ideal polo environment throughout the year, positioning it as a prime location for polo events. The thriving corporate sector in the city has the potential to significantly support and promote the sport. The ongoing Bangalore Polo season, culminating on August 27, underscores the bright and promising future of polo in Bengaluru," said Negi.

Sports couple Karthik, Dipika now strategic partners

Dinesh Karthik, the wicket-keeper batsman for Tamil Nadu and RCB, and Indian squash champion Dipika Pallikal have recently joined forces with Bengaluru-based Sports Tech Startup Fanplay IoT as strategic partners.

This star-studded collaboration aims to elevate Fanplay's strategic product and market roadmaps, provide valuable mentorship in product development, and enhance the global presence of the Fanplay brand.

Known for his explosive performance during death overs, Dinesh Karthik, often called the 'Finisher,' expressed the natural synergy between athletes and Fanplay. "This is an exciting space for us to be in. As professional athletes, we understand the vision of what Fanplay is trying to achieve – of not only bringing the entire sports world together on a single data platform but also creating conversations amongst Players, Kids and Fans. Our decision to be part of them comes from the sheer expertise they have shown in developing futuristic Wearable & IoT Tech and their unique fan engagement platform that captures every fan's emotions," said Dinesh while adding that it would become easier for him to interact with his fans.

Fanplay IoT stands as a prominent sports tech platform offering a spectrum of services, from Fan Engagement to cutting-edge Sports Wearables. A highlight of their portfolio is India's first Smart Jersey, capable of monitoring heart rate and other vital metrics crucial for professional athletes. The startup aims to democratise these advanced sports tech solutions, extending their benefits to millions of aspiring kids and amateurs in their sporting journey.

"While sports tech is seeing an

Dinesh Karthik, Dipika Pallikal

enormous amount of traction, Fanplay stands out amongst the crowd by pioneering several technologies that have already been well-tested and introduced in various teams and academies. Especially, their state-of-the-art Smart Jersey can be very crucial for monitoring women's sports performance, paving the way for data-driven scientific training," said the ace squash player Dipika Pallikal.

Fanplay IoT is a dream vision of Dr Mohan Kumar, its Founder & CEO. "We are very excited to have the duo on board. Both Dipika and Dinesh have performed exceptionally well at the highest levels in their respective sports. For us, their active involvement will help us to launch innovative customised solutions to real world athlete problems and exciting fan engagement solutions."

Vinay Jagtap, Co-Founder & CTO, of Fanplay IoT, further added: "It is an exciting phase in Fanplay's journey wherein we have many projects already executed with the likes of CSK, STAR Sports and Combat Kinetics. Both Dipika and Dinesh have been pillars in their respective sports and we hope to use their expertise and knowledge to elevate us to a whole new orbit."

Fanplay IoT's fan engagement platform captures the natural fan language – the Fan's motions & emotions - through their web-portal, mobile application and smart merchandise. Fanplay IoT is incubated as a deep tech start-up in IISc, Bengaluru and is part of the Ministry of Textiles program for Smart Textiles by the Govt. of India. They're also part of HYPE Sports Tech Accelerator (UK).

Fanplay IoT's Smart Jersey is currently being used by grassroots sports academies, and sports science centres for vital data monitoring during sports training. Their reporting and data analytics provide crucial insights into optimum performance levels and injury prevention. Going beyond the borders, Fanplay IoT is part of the GVA program of Hype Sports Innovation – a UK-based sports accelerator. Shortly, Fanplay IoT will be taking up projects for fan engagement and athlete performance in the international markets as well.

–SS Shreekumar

Get to Chennai from B'luru in just 4 hours

Travel time between Bengaluru and Chennai is set to decrease significantly in the near future as the railway authorities have granted permission to increase train speeds between Arakkonam and Jolarpettai (144 km) from 110 kmph to 130 kmph. This decision follows the completion of track and signal upgrades. The Chennai-Arakkonam stretch had previously been upgraded to accommodate enhanced speeds. The impact of this reduction in travel time will be particularly noticeable for trains heading to Bengaluru. The total travel time for the Vande Bharat Express will decrease from four hours and 25 minutes to around four hours. Similarly, for trains like Shatabdi or Brindavan Express, the travel time will decrease from six hours to five hours and 30 minutes.

With a majority of the necessary work completed, the railway administration has issued a circular notifying the operations department and locomotive pilots that 124 trains with LHB coaches have been authorised to operate at 130 kmph between Arakkonam and Jolarpettai starting next week. LHB coaches can safely operate at 130 kmph, whereas ICF-design coaches are limited to a speed of 110 kmph. An official said that the majority of ongoing work has been completed and a gradual decision will be made to allow each train to increase speed toward Bengaluru. Sources said that Vande Bharat trains were already operating at 130 kmph between Chennai and Arakkonam, and with the extension of the upgraded route to Jolarpet, other trains can now achieve improved speeds. This time reduction initiative will also help the railways compete more effectively against Omni buses on the Bengaluru-Chennai route.

Frequent travellers welcomed the speed increase but emphasised on the importance of minimising delays caused by congestion or bottlenecks on the routes. —BMB

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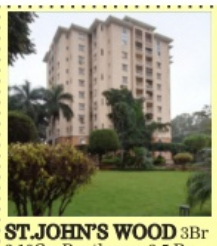

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I, Mr. Najib Hussain Zahir, S/o Mr. Abdul Zainul Zahir Hussain, holder of Indian Passport No. N8035495 issued at Bahrain on 22 September 2016, permanent residence at Chikkabanavara, Bangalore North, Karnataka, India and temporary resident of Juffair, Kingdom of Bahrain and Ms. Mia Jay Juyad Albiso, holder of Philippines passport P5714939B issued at Cagayan De Oro, Philippines on 04 November 2020 permanent residence at Cagayan De Oro, Misamis Oriental, Philippines and temporary resident of Al Hoora, Kingdom of Bahrain intend to solemnize our civil marriage during 16th October 2023 at the Embassy of India, Building 1090, Al Seef P.O. Box 26106, Kingdom of Bahrain under the Foreign Marriage Act 1969 of Inda. Objection(s), if any, may be forwarded to the Embassy of India, Kingdom of Bahrain within a period of 30 days from the date of publication of this notice.

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CHANGE OF NAME

I Deshabhushan Surendra Chougule S/O, Surendra Babu Chougule R/o A209, Samethana Lakefront Apartment, Chika Tirupati Road, Samethanahalli, Chansandra, Bangalore 560117 have changed my name to Deshbhushan Surendra Chougule.

I, Suhas Reddy R/o No.144, Prestige Dorchester, Jakkur Main Road, Next to Sri Rama Vidyalaya Jakkur, B'luru-560064 have changed my name to S N Suhas Reddy vide Affidavit Dt.18/08/2023 before notary Hemalatha P, B'luru.

I, Asha K S D/o Keshava Iyengar, R/a Flat no 201, 2nd Floor, No 102, Kalpatharu Renaissance, 9th Cross, 6th Main, Malleshwaram Bangalore 560003. I Have changed my name to Asha Raghu. Vide affidavit dated 18-08-23 sworn before notary Kundan Babu M Bangalore.

I Mohammed Mubarak S/o. Mohammed Khalandar R/a. No. 14, Flat No. 301, 3rd Floor, 1st cross, Chengaiah compound Masjid E Husna rd opp. Soham pharma SRK Garden Jayanagar Bangalore- 560041. I have changed my name from Mohammed Mubarak Khalandar to MOHAMMED MUBARAK Vide Affidavit Date: 31.07.2023. Sworn Before Notary : Mirzia Ulla.

I, D LALITHA KUMARI, D/o Seemakurthi Krishna Babu resident at H.No.52, Govinda Reddy Layout, Vibgyor School Road, Thubarahalli, Bengaluru -560066, have changed my name as SEEMAKURTHI LALITHA KUMARI, vide affidavit dated 18.08.2023, sworn before notary S. Subashini, Bengaluru.

I, Angadi Shanmuka Mahendranath, S/o. Angadi Veerabhadrappa Shanmukha, #8, 3rd Mn, 4th Crs, Vidyaranyapura, Blr-97, have changed my name to ANGADI SHANMUKHA MAHENDRANATH for all purposes.

I, Palakben Mukeshkumar Agrawal W/O, Akash Agarwal R/o 57/58, Akash Kunj, Adarsh Colony, Behind Post Office, Sumerpur Dist: Pali State: Rajasthan Pincode: 306902 have changed my name to Agrawal Palakben for all purposes.

I Satish Kumar S/o Ganeshmal Agarwal R/o 57/58, Akash Kunj, Adarsh Colony, Behind Post Office, Sumerpur Dist: Pali State: Rajasthan-306902 have changed my name to Satish Agarwal for all purposes

I, Shanmukappa Angadi Shankuma S/o. Angadi Veerabhadrappa, R/o: #18, Gandhi Nagar, Bellary-583101, have changed my name to ANGADI VEERABHADRAPPA SHANMUKHA for all purposes.

I, Farheen Taj V D/o Vazir Khan R/o. 184, 5th Cross , Gowsalwara Madarasa Virat Nagar B'lore -560068 have changed my name to Farheen Khan for all purposes

I Sumitra Devi W/o Satish Agarwal R/o 57/58, Akash Kunj, Adarsh Colony, Behind Post Office, Sumerpur Dist:Pali State:Rajasthan:306902 have changed my name to Sumitra Agarwal for all purposes

I Sahana.C R/a No. 1864, 20th Cross, 20th Main Road, Vijayanagara, Bangalore-560040, have changed my name to Sahana Nagarjun vide affidavit dt 18.08.2023, before notary B.M.Chandrashekar

I, Akash Kumar Agarwal S/o Satish Agarwal R/o 57/58, Akash Kunj, Adarsh Colony, Behind Post Office, Sumerpur Dist:Pali State:Rajasthan-306902 have changed my name to Akash Agarwal for all purposes

I Sangeeta Chamoli W/O, Kaushal Kishor R/o Cheemasandra, Virgo Nagar Post, Bengaluru 49 have changed my name to Sangeetha.

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SHOPPING MART

Rahul from Amethi?
Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi will contest the 2024 Lok Sabha elections from Amethi, newly appointed Uttar Pradesh Congress chief Ajay Rai said on Friday

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44% deficit in rain, Kerala stares at severe drought

State received 877.2 mm rain this year; normal is 1,572.1 mm

#Thiruvananthapuram

Kerala, the gateway of the monsoon in the country, is staring at the worst drought of the past few years as the state has recorded a 44 per cent deficit in seasonal rainfall, officials said here on Friday.

For the period June 1 to August 16, Kerala received only 877.2 mm of rainfall whereas normal rainfall figures recorded for the Southwest Monsoon in the state are 1,572.1 mm, according to the India Meteorological Department. This translates to a 44 per cent deficit this season.

Rainfall data of the seven days from August 10 to 16 illustrate how acute the situation is. There has been a deficit of 94 per cent during that period, as rainfall recorded was a mere 6.5 mm compared to normal rainfall of 109.6 mm.

Idukki, where Kerala's biggest hydroelectric power project is located, has recorded the lowest rainfall this season up to August 16, with a deficit of 60 per cent.

"The rainfall forecast for the next two weeks also shows a below-normal pattern," IMD Kerala Director K Santhosh told PTI, adding that it's possible at present to predict whether the remaining monsoon period would make up for the deficit.

Meanwhile, Idukki Reservoir, which is the backbone of Kerala's electricity production, has record low water levels.

"The water level in Idukki at present is just 31.13 per cent (of capacity) against 80.2 per cent during the corresponding time last year," Sajeesh, Technical Assistant to the Director, Generation (Civil), Kerala Electricity Board Limited (KSEBL) said.

With no fresh inflows, power generation at the Idukki hydroelectric station would be affected.

File photo of a rainy day in Kerala this monsoon. This year, even arrival of monsoon was delayed by a week in the state

In the second-largest power project at Pathanamthitta's Kakki, the water level is 35.6 per cent, way below the 62.42 per cent level during August last year. At Wayanad's Banasura Sagar reservoir, the third-largest power generation plant in the state, the water level is better at 61 per cent, but it is much below the 92 per cent level recorded in August last year.

Drinking water reservoirs in the state are also in a similar state. Supply to the capital city, Thiruvananthapuram, will be hit if rainfall is deficient during the upcoming Northeast Monsoon as well.

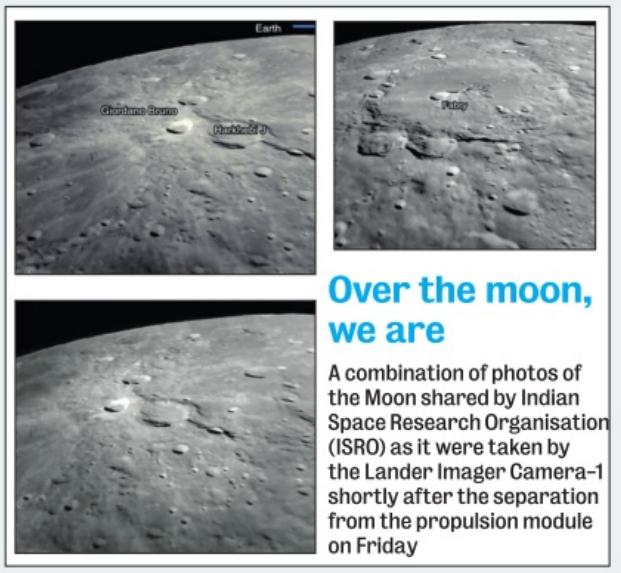
"At present, we have drinking water available for the next 100 days at the Peppara Dam. If we do not get Northeast Monsoon rains, then things are going to be difficult," Soumya S, Assistant Engineer, Dams, Kerala Water Authority, Thiruvananthapuram, told PTI.

The situation is precarious in other parts of the state as well. When Idukki recorded the lowest rainfall, it affected the water level in all the rivers that flow into the Arabian Sea from the central parts of Kerala. Farmers in the state, especially those from districts such as Idukki and Palakkad, are bracing for complete crop loss this year.

"We have had only two or three rains since January. This is the time to sow seeds, but there is no water. We are also going to face a severe drinking water crisis. The agriculture office gave us vegetable seeds to grow for the Onam market, but we could not do anything," SP Venkatachalam, a tribal farmer from Santhanpara, Idukki told PTI.

KP Rajappan Nair, another farmer from Pooppara, Idukki, echoes his concerns. "This year, agriculture is going to be a complete loss due to the unavailability of water. The Poopara area is well known for its agriculture, but this Onam we are not going to have any of our products in the market," Nair said. Many higher altitude areas in the state already face a drinking water crisis, as the groundwater table has depleted due to the weak monsoon.

Kerala is now pinning its hopes on the Northeast Monsoon, which is expected between October and December. – PTI



Over the moon, we are

A combination of photos of the Moon shared by Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) as it were taken by the Lander Imager Camera-1 shortly after the separation from the propulsion module on Friday

Duty-free shops at airports: SC recalls verdict on indirect taxes

#New Delhi

In a significant development, the Supreme Court Friday recalled its April 10 verdict by which it had held that duty free shops at arrival and departure terminals at international airports are outside the purview of the customs law and they cannot be saddled with indirect taxes like service tax.

A special bench comprising Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra heard Additional Solicitor General N Venkatraman, appearing for the Centre and the Commissioner of Central Goods and Services Tax (CGST) and Central Excise of Mumbai East, and allowed their review plea against the April 10 judgement of a two-judge bench of the top court on the issue.

While recalling the order, the bench agreed to the contention of the law officer that there was a "breach of principle of natural justice" as the government department was not accorded the hearing.

The apex court also made it clear that since the judgement has been recalled, no steps for claiming the refund of service tax to the tune of Rs 200 crore from the government can be undertaken by M/s Flemingo Travel Retail Limited (FTRL) in the meantime. Now the appeal of the government department, along with 16 other similar pleas, will be heard together afresh. The FTRL is engaged in the business of running duty free shops at the arrival and departure terminals of the Mumbai and Delhi International Airports.

The Customs Excise and Service Tax Appellate Tribunal (CESTAT), Mumbai, had on February 10, 2022 allowed the appeal of FTRL for claiming refund of service tax in relation to the transaction with Mumbai International Airport Limited for the period October 01, 2011 to August 30, 2017.

The government department had filed an appeal in the top court which was dismissed on April 10 by a bench of justices Krishna Murari (since retired) and Sanjay Karol. – PTI

HEALTH TIP: Nutrients in microgreens, mature vegetables differ but both help you lose weight

Tuna is almost entirely protein, essential for building lean muscle mass and providing the body with energy

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How biological differences between men and women alter immune responses – and affect women's health

BATTLE OF THE SEXES

Most people will have heard the term "man flu", which refers to men's perceived tendency to exaggerate the severity of a cold or a similar minor ailment.

What most people may not know is that, generally speaking, women mount stronger immune responses to infections than men.

Men are more susceptible to infections from, for example, HIV, hepatitis B, and Plasmodium falciparum (the parasite responsible for malaria).

They can also have more severe symptoms, with evidence showing they're more likely to be admitted to hospital when infected with hepatitis B, tuberculosis, and Campylobacter jejuni (a bacteria that causes gastroenteritis), among others.

While this may be positive for women in some respects, it also means women are at greater risk of developing chronic diseases driven by the immune system, known as immune-mediated inflammatory diseases.

Here we will explore how biological factors influence immune differences between the sexes and how this affects women's health.

While we acknowledge that both sex and gender may affect immune responses, this article will focus on biological sex rather than gender.

Differences

There are differences between the sexes at every stage of the immune response, from the number of immune cells, to their degree of activation (how ready they are to respond to a challenge), and beyond.

However, the story is more complicated than that. Our immune system evolves throughout our lives, learning from past experiences, but also responding to the physiological challenges of getting older.

As a result, sex differences in the immune system can be seen from birth through puberty into adulthood and old age.

Why do these differences occur? The first part of answering this question involves the X chromosome. Females have two X chromosomes, while males have one X and one Y chromosome. The X chromosome contains the largest number of immune-related genes.

The X chromosome also has around 118 genes from a gene family that are able to stop the expression of other genes, or change how proteins are made, including those required for immunity.

These gene-protein regulators are known as microRNA, and there are only two microRNA genes on the Y chromosome.

The X chromosome has more genes overall (around 900) than the Y chromosome (around 55), so female cells have evolved to switch off one of their X chromosomes. This is not like turning off a light switch, but more like using a dimmer.

Around 15-25 per cent of genes on the silenced X chromosome are expressed at any given moment in any given cell.

This means female cells can often express more immune-related genes and gene-protein regulators than males. This generally means a faster clearance of pathogens in females than males.

Second, men and women have varying levels of different sex hormones.

Progesterone and testosterone are broadly considered to limit immune responses.

While both hormones are produced by males and females, progesterone is found at higher concentrations in non-menopausal women than men, and testosterone is much higher in men than women.

The role of oestrogen, one of the main female sex hormones, is more complicated. Although generally oestrogen enhances immune responses, its levels vary during the menstrual cycle, are high in pregnancy and low after menopause.

Due in part to these genetic and hormonal factors, pregnancy and the years following are associated with heightened immune responses to external challenges such as infection.

This has been regarded as an evolutionary feature, protecting women and their unborn children during pregnancy and enhancing the mother's survival throughout the child-rearing years, ultimately ensuring the survival of the population.

We also see this pattern in other species including insects, lizards, birds and mammals.

What does this all mean?

With women's heightened immune responses to infections comes an increased risk of certain diseases and prolonged immune responses after infections.

An estimated 75-80 per cent of all immune-mediated inflammatory diseases occur in females.

Diseases more common in women include multiple sclerosis, rheumatoid arthritis, lupus, Sjogren's syndrome, and thyroid disorders such as Graves disease.

In these diseases, the immune system is continuously fighting against what it sees as a foreign agent.

However, often this perceived threat is not a foreign agent, but cells or tissues from the host. This leads to tissue damage, pain and immobility.

Women are also prone to chronic inflammation following infection.

For example, after infections with Epstein Barr virus or Lyme disease, they may go on to develop chronic fatigue syndrome, another condition that affects more women than men.

This is one possible explanation for the heightened risk among pre-menopausal women of developing long covid following infection with SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes covid.

Research has also revealed the presence of auto-antibodies (antibodies that attack the host) in patients with long covid, suggesting it might be an autoimmune disease. As women are more susceptible to autoimmune conditions, this could potentially explain the sex bias seen.

However, the exact causes of long covid, and the reason women may be at greater risk, are yet to be defined.

This paints a bleak picture, but it's not all bad news. Women typically mount better vaccine responses to several common infections (for example, influenza, measles, mumps, rubella, hepatitis A and B), producing higher antibody levels than men.

One study showed that women vaccinated with half a dose of flu vaccine produced the same amount of antibodies compared to men vaccinated with a full dose.

However, these responses decline as women age, and particularly after menopause.

All of this shows it's vital to consider sex when designing studies examining the immune system and treating patients with immune-related diseases.

(By Helen McGettrick and Asif Iqbal, University of Birmingham, The Conversation)

All you need to know about...

Blue-light glasses

See clearly?
Spectacles that are marketed to filter out blue light probably make no difference to eye strain caused by computer use or to sleep quality, according to researchers, including one of Indian-origin.

Filtering lenses trend
Blue-light filtering lenses, also known as blue-light blocking spectacles, have been increasingly prescribed or recommended, often by optometrists, since the early 2000s.

No evidence to show any positive effect
Researchers from the UK and Australia reviewed data from 17 randomised controlled trials from six different countries and found no evidence that blue-light filtering lenses protect against damage to the retina, the light-sensitive tissue at the back of the eye.
"The amount of blue light our eyes receive from artificial sources, such as computer screens, is about a thousandth of what we get from natural daylight. It's also worth bearing in mind that blue-light filtering lenses typically filter out about 10-25 per cent of blue light, depending on the specific product," Dr Sumeer Singh, a postdoctoral research fellow at the University of Melbourne. "Filtering out higher levels of blue light would require the lenses to have an obvious amber tint, which would have a substantial effect on colour perception," he added.

Mechanism of filtering lenses
The potential mechanisms by which blue-light filtering lenses might be able to help with eye strain, sleep and protecting the retina are unclear. One basis for claims about the benefits of these lenses is that modern digital devices such as computers and smart phones emit more blue light than traditional lighting sources, and are being used for longer, and closer to bedtime.

—IANS

Britney won't have to pay — Pop icon Britney Spears won't be required to pay anything to former husband Sam Asghari, according to their prenup deal

Perennial agrarian problems

Srikant Katagi debuts as a director in Sandalwood with this movie. And he deserves appreciation for selecting a strong story for his maiden movie. There were many Kannada movies based on agrarian problems but Kshetrapathi remains different from those movies because of the story. The movie, apart from highlighting agrarian problems, tries to throw some light on other issues such as the difficulties young farmers face to find brides, poverty, and petty politics in rural areas. The movie also narrates how the media, politicians and police join hands to trouble farmers.

The movie begins with Basava (Naveen Shankar), an engineering student busy dreaming in the classroom about leaving for the US to lead a comfortable life. However, Basava has to discontinue B.Tech when his father dies by suicide due to inability to repay agricultural loans. Basava decides to become a farmer rather than an engineer but becoming a farmer is not a bed of roses. Meanwhile, a local politician and a minister create problems for Basava. The movie also explores why politicians have ganged up against Basava and his friends and why hapless farmers try to distance themselves from Basava. How Basava regains the trust and confidence of local farmers is what Kshetrapathi is all about. Naveen, who earned name for his performance in Kannada movies Gultoo, Hondisi Bareyiri, and Gurudev Hoysala, stands out for his portrayal in emotion and action scenes. His dialogue delivery is superb. His USP is his natural performance. Archana Jois, who plays the role of a mother in KGF, has acted well in this movie which is the second film in which she shares screen space with Naveen after Hondisi Bareyiri. Achyuth Kumar, as an editor of a regional daily, Rahul Ainapur as an overambitious politician, Krishna Hebbale, as a corrupt minister, and Natya Ranga, as a hero's sidekick, provide good support. Ravi Basrur's music and Vidya Bala's cinematography are an added value for this movie.

KSHETRAPATHI

3.0 RATING ★★★☆☆

- **DIRECTOR** Srikant Katagi
- **ACTORS** Naveen Shankar, Archana Jois, Rahul Ainapur, Achyuth Kumar, Krishna Hebbale, and Natya Ranga
- **CERTIFICATION** U/A
- **Duration** 157 minutes

Kshetrapathi would have been the best movie released this year had the director ensured crisp screenplay in the post-intermission part.

It is worth a watch, especially for those who love movies set in a rural backdrop.

—Y Maheswara Reddy

Swaying grace

5 B-Town actresses who have mastered the art of Kathak

Grace, elegance, and a touch of tradition – these qualities aren't just limited to the silver screen for some of Bollywood's divas. From dazzling on the silver screen to mastering the art of Kathak, here are FIVE actresses who are trained in the classical dance form. — ETimes

Taapsee Pannu

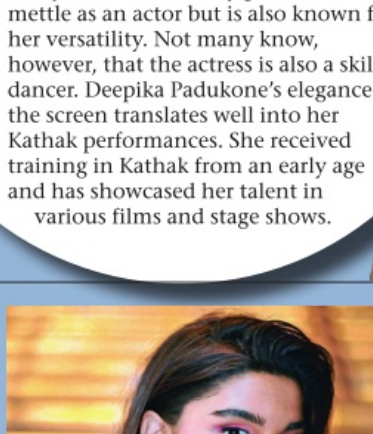
Taapsee Pannu has very successfully created a niche for herself in the film industry with her choice of films and performances. Apart from her acting skills, Taapsee is also known for her incredible dance talent. Not many know that she trained extensively in Kathak before making her mark in the film industry. We hope we will get to watch her show off her dance skills on the silver screen soon.

Deepika Padukone

Deepika Padukone is undoubtedly one of the top actresses we have in Bollywood today. She has not only proved her mettle as an actor but is also known for her versatility. Not many know, however, that the actress is also a skilled dancer. Deepika Padukone's elegance on the screen translates well into her Kathak performances. She received training in Kathak from an early age and has showcased her talent in various films and stage shows.

Jahnvi Kapoor

Coming from a family deeply rooted in cinema and arts, Jahnvi Kapoor also has a flair for dance. Trained in Kathak, she infuses her performances with a delicate charm that resonates with the classical dance form's essence. She has often shared her dance videos on Instagram with her fans where she has flaunted her dance moves.



Sara Ali Khan

Known for her bubbly on-screen presence, Sara Ali Khan's versatility extends to her dance skills as well. Trained in Kathak, she effortlessly combines modern dance with classical Kathak elements, creating a captivating fusion. Both in her style and acting, she has been the right fusion of Indian and western and her pictures and videos on social media are proof!.

Saiee M Manjrekar

Mahesh Manjrekar's darling daughter Saiee Manjrekar made her big Bollywood debut with 'Dabangg 3' alongside Salman Khan and Sonakshi Sinha. The young diva surprised many with her graceful Kathak performance in the movie. Her training in the dance form added an extra layer of authenticity to her on-screen presence.

Anything for a good story

Nushrratt Bharuccha believes in picking up scripts that resonate with her and the actor says she is not averse to playing a "damsel in distress" if it is backed by a good story.

The actor said there are films and stories where somebody comes to save the girl and they are equally interesting. "I find that journey and that story of how she gets saved by someone also very interesting. It's just about the story... If the story appeals to me, I'm happy to be a damsel in distress and (wait for) a hero coming and saving me. It's absolutely fine," the actor told PTI in an interview.

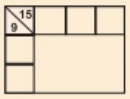
In her upcoming "Akelli", Bharuccha plays Jyoti, a woman who gets stuck in war-torn Iraq and attempts to make her way back to India to reunite with her family. The story is about a woman's fight for survival in an extremely difficult situation, which instantly hooked the actor. "How she is stuck, where she's stuck and how she's trying to go back to her loved ones," she said. **—PTI**

SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

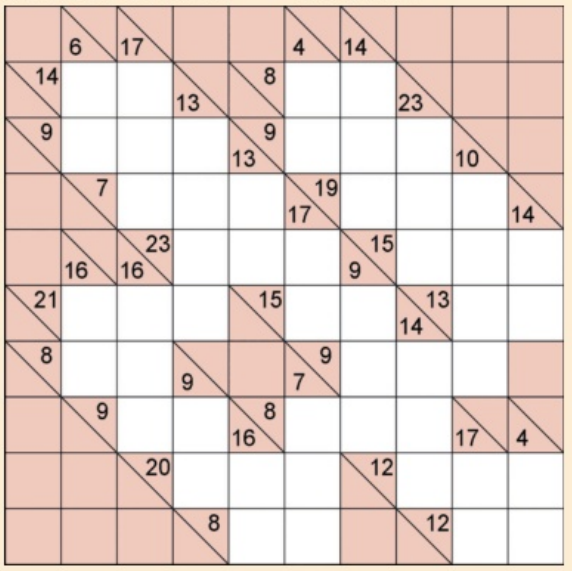
The tip of an arrow travelling at 200 feet per second is 10 feet from the target. In how many milliseconds will it reach it?

Kakuro

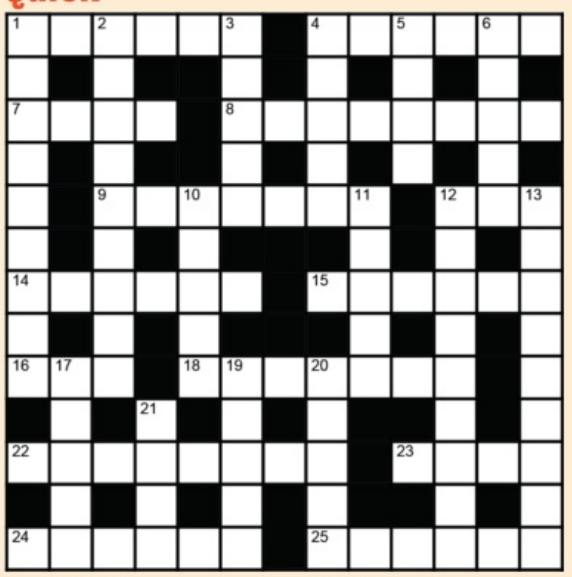
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Scanty (6)
4 A dive into the water (6)
7 Popular snack Masala ___ (4)
8 Lively (8)
9 Bring into sight again (7)
12 Mumbai's terminus (3)
14 Sound of a small bell (6)
15 Jump or spring suddenly (6)
16 Compass direction (3)
18 Exposes or humiliates? (5,2)
22 Chess champion Garry ___ (8)
23 Napoleon's isle (4)
24 Rejected or spurned (6)
25 Involuntary muscular contractions (6)

DOWN

1 Ponders, muses or reflects (9)
2 Confidence (9)
3 Muse of poetry (5)
4 Three line Japanese poem (5)
5 Laboratory gel (4)
6 Blissful places (5)
10 Parents (informal) (5)
11 Decelerates (5)
12 Multiplex on Banerghatta road (9)
13 Actors (9)
17 Guru in our country (5)
19 Took on lease or rent (5)
20 Old ___ tale : old but rather foolish belief? (5)
21 Petty quarrel (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: T EQUALS P

YQF RDXCFU OFDEZXF YO EKF TFYTPF, AYEK KGWK DQU PYN, GL D PYJF OYX OPYNFXL.

Linemaro

I want to be the friend you hopelessly fall in love with

Mindchow

Expect problems and eat them for breakfast

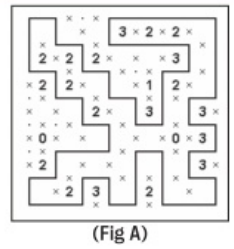
Joke of the day

I once had a goldfish that could break-dance on a carpet, but only for like 20 seconds

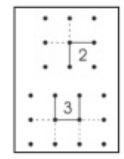
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

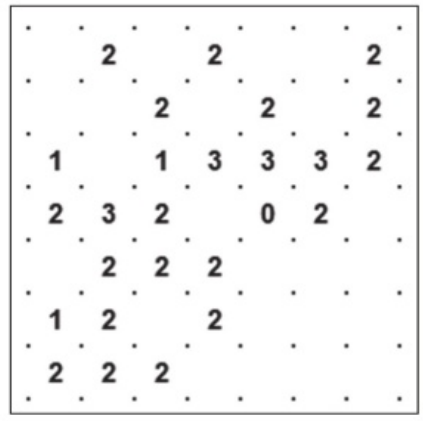


(Fig B) Not Allowed

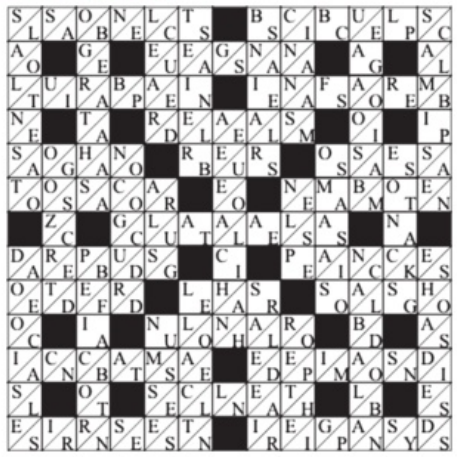
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



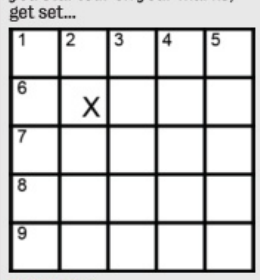
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

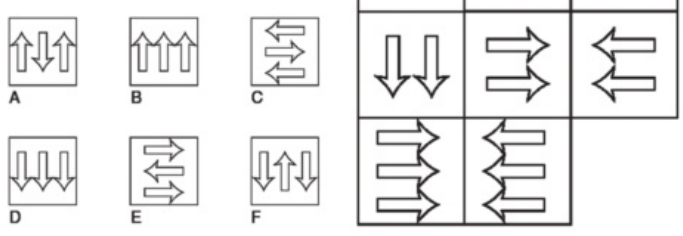
1 Ere GP; 6 Ex Doe;
7 Trust; 8 A race;
9 Sawed

DOWN

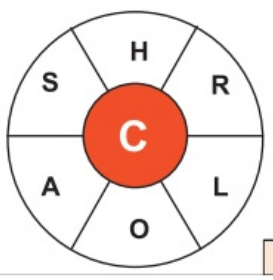
1 Wears; 2 Taxer;
3 Doper; 4 Deuce;
5 Gates

Mensapuzzle

Which is the missing tile?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

09 Average; **10** Good; **12** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

		7		1	8	5		9
	2							
		3		6			4	8
				5	9	6	3	
	9	8	1	3				
5	1			4		8		
							1	
4		9	6	2		7		

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 15
3 5 7 7

Medium = 11
1 6 7 9

Hard = 6
5 6 6 6

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

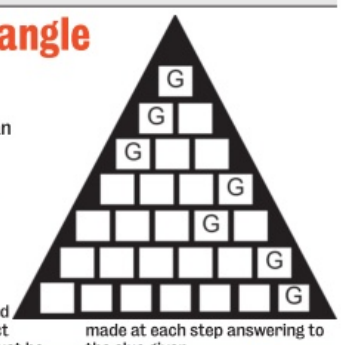
Differences: 1. Thumb is moved. 2. Foot is moved. 3. Window is smaller. 4. Stone is missing. 5. Hat is missing. 6. Collar is different.

Riddler

The following clues give definitions for world capitals. These definitions describe what the capitals (just the city) sound like they would mean.
1) This capital is a tool used for fighting.
2) This capital is a royal weight.
3) This capital is a cheer for a body of water.
4) This capital is the legendary vehicle graveyard.

Alpha triangle

1 Gram, abbr.
2 Guam .. abbr
3 Firearm
4 Respiratory organ
5 Indian garment
6 Pasting
7 Drinking quickly



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

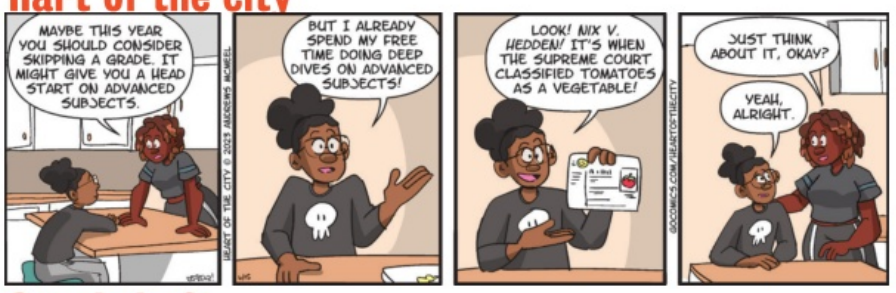
Redeye by Mel Casson

KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT TREATING DANDRUFF, MEDICINE MAN ?
WELL, IF I DIDN'T, I SURE WASTED A LOT OF MONEY GOING TO MEDICAL SCHOOL !
LEFT FOOT OR RIGHT FOOT ?
5-30

Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

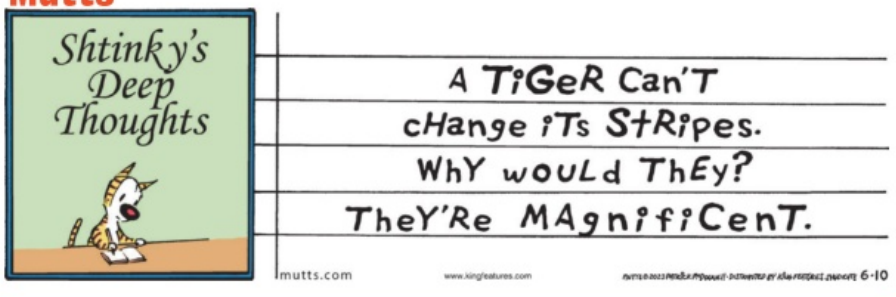
Hart of the city


MAYBE THIS YEAR YOU SHOULD CONSIDER SKIPPING A GRADE. IT MIGHT GIVE YOU A HEAD START ON ADVANCED SUBJECTS.
BUT I ALREADY SPEND MY FREE TIME DOING DEEP DIVES ON ADVANCED SUBJECTS!
LOOK! NIX V. HEDDEN! IT'S WHEN THE SUPREME COURT CLASSIFIED TOMATOES AS A VEGETABLE!
JUST THINK ABOUT IT, OKAY?
YEAH, ALRIGHT.

Crankshaft

DO YOU STILL WEAR A MASK WHEN YOU'RE OUT IN A CROWD?
IT STILL MAKES SENSE FOR SENIORS TO DO THAT.
ABSOLUTELY...
AND NOT JUST BECAUSE WE'RE NOT GETTING ANY PRETTIER!
BATIUK & DAVIS tombatiuk.com/books

Mutts


Shtinky's Deep Thoughts
A TiGeR Can'T cHange iTs STRipes. WhY woULd ThEy? ThEY'Re MAgnifiCenT.
mutts.com
www.kingfeatures.com

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today is not a good day for you. You may be a victim of negative thoughts. You may be impatient. Your arrogance may push you back from taking difficult decisions. Your life seems to stop somewhere; you may be in need of the blessing of your elders, which is likely to help you to come out from the messy situations. You should avoid making investments in dead assets. Love birds shall avoid discussing worthless topics.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today at the start of the day, you may not be focused on your work, but with the help of an elder's blessing, you may be able to control this messy situation. You may easily find the resources, which might be important for completion of the project. Your sources of income are likely to be increased; your losses may be converted into profits, which may boost your financial health.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today you will expect some big order from some new client, which will increase your liquidity in the business. You are likely to meet some influential person who may help you to grow your business. Your bonding with the boss may become strong; you may expect some promotions because of hard work. Your prestige may be increased now.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today you are blessed by your elders, which may give patience in your thought process. You are likely to be happy and calm. You may plan to visit some spiritual place to seek peace of mind. You may also donate some amount to a spiritual place for development. There may be some chances for overseas travel.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today you may feel dull; you may also have some health issues, which is likely to affect your day today at work. You find yourself under mysterious fear, which may make you sensitive and emotional. You are advised to avoid rash driving and adventure tours. You are also attracted to the occult. You are advised to visit some religious place; chanting mantra or prayer will also give you some relief.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today you may enjoy it with your family. You may spend some romantic moments with the spouse, which may boost understanding with your spouse. You are likely to spend money on buying some artifacts or household stuff to renovate your house. You may enjoy parties and events. You are advised to read documents carefully before making any investments in fixed assets.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today you may feel happy and energetic. You may explore and analyse yourself, which may give you confidence. You are likely to be able to face any type of challenges, which may make you fearless and courageous. You are advised to keep patience in making some financial decisions in business. Love birds may enjoy their happy moments.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today is a good day for you; your enthusiasm may be on peak, you need to regulate enthusiasm. Self analysis may help you to get confidence, which may increase your prestige in the society. You will resolve many problems with the help of communication skills. Investors are advised to avoid speculation before making investments. You may also plan for higher studies for a good career.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today you may not be able to enjoy your work life as well as family life. You are advised to avoid arrogance and ego with your spouse otherwise it may affect your emotional bonding. Problems in partnerships are likely to be resolved. Singles are advised to avoid rushing before making decisions related to marriage. With the help of patience, you may come out of the messy situation.

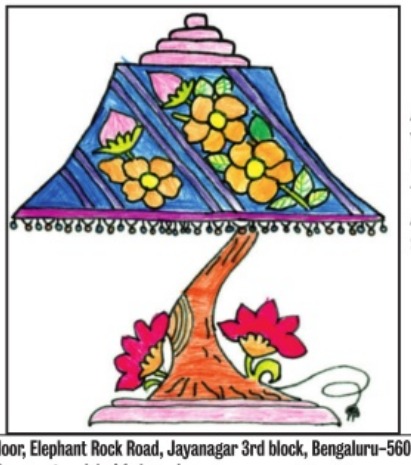
Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today you may be able to implement business plans successfully with support of your subordinates. You may be involved in some social or family get together, which may boost your network. You are likely to go for short business related trips, which may give you benefits in near future.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today is a good day; your financial health is likely to be good. You may get benefits from your past investments. You may have control over your spendings on worthless stuff, which may boost your savings. Love birds are advised to be polite in the conversation with the partner, otherwise there may be some conflicts between them.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today you may be busy with issues related to siblings and relatives. You may plan to start some new venture with the help of your siblings and network. You are likely to get an order, which may increase your family business. Your network may help you to complete your task successfully. There may be some smart gains after a little effort.

KIDZONE

Varun G, 9 Years, Kairalee Nilayam School



Anagha Venkata Raghavan, 10 Years, APS Public School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
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SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
200ft/s×1/10ft
=20/s×(s/1000)
=50 mts

RIDDLER
1) Warsaw (War Saw), Poland,
2) Kingston (King's Ton), Jamaica,
3) Beirut (Bay Root), Lebanon,
4) Khartoum (Car Tomb), Sudan

BULL'S EYE
arch, carol, cash,
char, clash, coal,
coral, crash, loch,
roach, scar,
SCHOLAR

FAST FIVE

R	E	P	E	G
E	X	O	D	E
S	T	R	U	T
A	R	E	C	A
W	A	D	E	S

STRIKE OUT

E	R	N	E	S	T	R	E	P	A	Y	S			
		Z		C	U	T	L	A	S	S		A		
D	E	B	U	G		I		P	I	C	K	S		
O	D	E	R		E	A	R		S	A	S	H		
C		A		U	L	N	A	R		B		A		
I	N	C	A	S	E		D	E	M	A	N	D		
L		O		E	C	L	A	T		L		E		
T	O	S	C	A		O		E	A	M	O	N		
S	O	H	O		R	E	S		O	S	S	A		
E		T		D	E	A	L	S		I		P		
A		E		A	G	A	N		G		A			
T	U	R	B	A	N		I	N	F	O	R	M		
A		E		E		M		A		T		E	D	

QUICK

M	E	A	G	R	E		H	E	A	D	E	R		
E		S			R		A		G		D			
D	O	S	A		A	N	I	M	A	T	E	D		
I		U		T		K		R		N				
T		R	E	F	O	C	U	S		C	S	T		
A			O			L			I			H		
T	I	N	K	L	E		B	O	U	N	C	E		
E		C		K		W		E			S			
S	S	E	S		S	H	O	W	S	U	P		P	
K	A	S	P	A	R	O	V		E	L	B	A		
M		A		E		I						N		
W		S		I		I			O			I		
S	S	E	S	H	O	W	S	U	P			P		
E		C		K		W		E				S		
T	I	N	K	L	E		B	O	U	N	C	E		
A			O			L			I			H		
T		R	E	F	O	C	U	S		C	S	T		
I		U		T		K		R		N				
D	O	S	A		A	N	I	M	A	T	E	D		
E		S			R		A		G		D			
M	E	A	G	R	E		H	E	A	D	E	R		
J	I	L	T	L	E	D		S	P	A	S	M	S	

SUDOKU

6	4	7	3	1	8	5	2	9
8	2	1	5	9	4	3	6	7
9	5	3	2	6	7	1	4	8
1	7	4	8	5	9	6	3	2
3	6	5	4	7	2	9	8	1
2	9	8	1	3	6	4	7	5
5	1	2	7	4	3	8	9	6
7	3	6	9	8	5	2	1	4
4	8	9	6	2	1	7	5	3

ALPHA TRIANGLE
G, Gu, Gun,
Lung, Lungi,
Gluing, Gulping.

GO FIGURE
Easy
5 x 3 – 7 + 7 = 15
Medium
7 + 9 + 1 – 6 = 11
Hard
6 – 6 / 5 + 6 = 6

QUOTE UNCODE
One marked feature of the people, both high and low, is a love for flowers.

MENSA PUZZLE
D: in each line across and down the arrows point in each of three directions left, right and down. The number of arrows increases 1, 2, 3 in each row.

LOOP

KAKURO

6		17			4	14		
9	5	9	3	8	1	2	6	10
14	1	6	2	9	13	5	8	23
7	2	1	4	17	7	9	3	14
	7	9	16	8	2	1	5	20
9	7	2	8	9	6	4	7	16
8	7	1	9	7	2	6	1	
21	9	8	6	9	8	4	9	15
16	8	5	9	16	9	8	2	5
	3	9	7	1				3

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